

~~INFORMAL SECRET~~

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COUNTRY China

CONFIDENTIAL

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1. With the closing of the British American Tobacco Company, the drastic reduction in the activities of the railroads, and starvation wages paid by Churin Company, the economic situation of the Mukden Soviet community has become desperate.

2. Although Almazov, the Soviet Trade Representative in Mukden, is looked upon by many in the community as their diplomatic representative, he is actually nothing more than a spokesman for the Soviet Government in official dealings with the Chinese Government.

3. Early in March Soviet Vice Consul S. Seregin of Peiping was in Mukden for the purpose of renewing passports. When asked what plans the Soviet officials have for helping Mukden Soviet citizens who are literally beginning to starve, he replied that nothing can be done at the present time, but that the people must have courage. He stated that all the railroad workers will soon have full employment and that there will soon be schools and hospitals for all Soviet citizens. Seregin also said that for those who want to return to their home country there will be in the near future a closer and easier route for repatriation than the present one through Tientsin.

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